



Scot Pourri



Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 150 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our on line Scotpourri form at <http://www.scottishbanner.com/pg/pourri.php>, alternatively you may post or fax your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access.

Thanks to Judy and the "Scottish Banner"

I love the "Scottish Banner" and all the neat articles. I found out about my Scottish heritage when I met my mother's first cousin, Judy Sjostrom for the first time in 2004.

I also learned that Judy and her late husband Walter Sjostrom were founding members of the Central New York Scottish and Celtic games in Liverpool, New York.

Judy has compiled much data regarding the ancestry on my mother's father's side of the family. My mother knew of the English background of her father's name (Woodward) but had no idea that her grandmother's maiden name was Lennox, and that her great grandmother and grandfather Lennox had left Scotland in the late 1800's.

They settled in Ireland for one year, and then moved on to the Kingston, Ontario, in Canada. Eventually, her grandmother, Mary Lennox, married her grandfather, Edward Woodward, and in the early 1900's they moved from Canada to northern New York. I was Irish on my father's side, but as a child I loved Tartan plaids and Argyles.

I could never understand why I was so attracted to Scottish things. As an adult, I became attracted to Cairn terriers, bridies, Scottishmeat pies and of course, fine single malt scotches, but still never understanding why I had such an affinity and desire for Scotland.

Thanks to Judy, everything became clear four years ago why 80% of the shirts that I wore in the winter were tartan, and other plaid variations.

She revealed to me my heritage and I am forever grateful. On July 6th, Judy will be celebrating her 79th birthday in Syracuse, NY.

I would like to publicly thank Judy for everything she has done for me since I have met her and for bringing Scotland and the "Scottish Banner" into my life. So, happy birthday Judy and thanks for everything.

Robert Skelly
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Re-union

This photo is of the class of 1942, at Clepington P.S., in Dundee Scotland. Jane Todd, one of the pupils, is hoping to have a re-union of any ex classmates.

She believes the photo was taken C 1944 and has already found out that some of the pupils have passed on.

It seems that at least two of them came out to Australia, if you are one of them let me know. Miss Summers was the teacher for the first two years.

Regards,
David Keith,
South Australia
Email: dajo@aapt.net.au

Isle of Bute

My husband saw the picture of Rothesay, Isle of Bute, on the cover of the June 07 edition of the "Banner" and, knowing my love for the Isle, bought the paper presenting it to me with a broad smile when he saw my delight of recognition.

Golden childhood memories came flooding back as a wee Glasgow lassie boarding a steam train at Central Station Glasgow with my family. Sitting in the train making words to the rhythmic sounds of the railway wheels on the track, breathing deeply the pungent tang of steam exhaust, was the beginning of the exciting trip to Rothesay for the summer holidays. The suitcases being transferred onto the paddle steamer waiting at Wemyss Bay for our sail "doon the water". There was the usual conducted tour of the boat and closer examination of the reciprocating engines by Dad, a marine engineer, which kept us occupied till sweet Rothesay Bay came into view filling our hearts with its beauty and delights in store for us.

Like the children's corner to be descended upon with a pale and spade, essential for making sand castles, the band stand at the front of the toon where we cheered and danced to

Birthday Gift

Please accept this gift subscription for my Aunt Cathie. Cathie read the paper for the first time last month. I wrote "The Ashes Tour" story in the June issue and forwarded to Cathie, as it is about her sister Annie. She just loved the paper and has spent many hours reading and re-reading the whole issue.

What better gift could I buy than a gift subscription for her birthday? I know she'll love it....its a fantastic paper.

Jean Bryslard
O'Connor, ACT
Australia

the brass band, the miniature pitch and putt green where Dad had come to intervene when outbursts threatened over who was cheating by treating all to ice cream cones.

The fishing boats in the harbour (as seen in your cover) where we held noses as we ran past as fast as our wee legs could take us. The hill walks where treasured white heather grew and wee samples taken for "good luck" mindful to leave some for the others and many more similar images to warm the cockles of the heart.

This beautiful Scottish Isle which has a feyness that finds the heart no matter where you roam, like other areas of Mother Earth our footprints linger, remaining forever. The Isle of Bute is just such a place. Thank you "Scottish Banner" for prompting these almost forgotten, but cherished memories of time past.

Jess Nolan nee Fleming
Bomaderry, NSW
Australia

Fiona's Dream

Am sending in our annual subscription for another twelve months. Really love reading the Scottish Banner, keep up the good work. It gets passed around the family as well. Dad enjoys everything about it, especially the Scottish kitchen, he came from Kilmarnock, Ayrshire so finds it very interesting as he recognises quite a lot.

Our daughter Fiona is 16 years now and has been Highland Dancing for nearly 10 years. She loves it as much as ever. We have done a fair bit of travelling to all the competitions throughout Australia. Next on the list is to dance in Scotland. It is one of Fiona's dreams to realise one day.

Debbie Jean Rowse
Smythes Creek, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: We wish Fiona all the luck in getting to Scotland and fulfilling one of her dreams.

The Oldest Highland Games?

The question regarding the oldest Highland Games in North America brought back many happy memories for me. There were small Highland Games in Northern Alberta in the mid 1930's. In 1939 my sister and I both danced at the Games held in Sedgewick, south east of Edmonton, Alberta, and Elnora, south east of Red Deer, Alberta. Also there were Games held at Meewata Stadium, in Calgary, Alberta, which we attended in 1939 also.

We lived in Edmonton at the time and I remember the long drives. At the Sedgewick Games, my sister,



Margaret and Sheila

Sheila Morrison, was the Northern Alberta Junior Highland Dance Champion. She was nearly six years old. I received a Bronze medal for the Highland Fling, which I still have,

At the Elnora Highland Games, I remember a lady in her late twenties with long flowing black hair dancing the Irish Jig in her bare feet. She was the talk of the Games.

The traditional field sports were all part of these games. Sheila also danced at the 1947 Calgary Games. She was a great dancer and also became a piper in the Calgary Women's Pipe Band when she got older. I became a Highland Dance Teacher and retired in 2004. I have just received LIFE Membership in the Scottish Dance Teacher's Alliance.

Although the Games in Northern Alberta were small, they kept the Scottish communities in touch with one another and were the fore-runner of the larger Games held in Edmonton and Calgary today. I have also attended the Maxville Highland Games. I hope this is of some interest to you.

Margaret (Morrison) Crites.
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Can You Help?

I am in the process of renewing my British Passport and having some difficulty finding someone as a co-signatory, but with some help from the British Consulate, I hope to be successful. If successful, I would like to return to Glasgow where I was born in 1923. I am not a Glaswegian, as I was brought up in Aberdeen, Brora, and Kilmarnock, before family moved South.

I joined the Royal Navy on the 11th of May, 1939. I was there until November 4th, 1953. The following year, October, 1954, I moved to Canada which I liked very much. But now, at the present time, I do not have family. I lost my wife seven years ago or more now. Since then I have had this desire to go back to Scotland. It might be a foolish idea, and I will try to get as much information from whatever source I can, and make contact where possible.

I hope that whoever reads this letter might be able to pass on some useful information for me.

As a long time reader of the "Banner", keep up the good work.

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